

Claims

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1. A method, including steps of
sending a first certificate from a first entity, said first certificate including
security information regarding at least a second entity, said first certificate including
information authenticating a second certificate from said second entity; and
sending said second certificate from said second entity;
whereby a recipient of said first certificate and said second certificate can
authenticate from information therein a first set of security information to associate with
said first entity and a second set of security information to associate with said second
entity.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the following
includes a root certificate: said first certificate, said second certificate.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein
said first certificate includes both an expiration date and information
authenticating a third certificate; and
said third certificate includes an expiration date other than said expiration
date for said first certificate.

- 1 4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first certificate includes
2 information authenticating a certificate from said first entity other than said first
3 certificate.
4
- 5 5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first certificate includes
6 information authenticating a future intended version of said first certificate.
7
- 8 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said second certificate includes
9 information authenticating a third certificate.
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- 11 7. A method as in claim 1, wherein
12 said second certificate including security information regarding at least a
13 third entity, said second certificate including information authenticating a third certificate
14 from said third entity;
15 and including steps of sending said third certificate from said third entity
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- 17 8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said security information includes a
18 set of authorizations for said second entity.
19
- 20 9. An article of manufacture, said article including a computer data
21 signal embodied in readable medium, said readable medium including at least one of the
22 following: a carrier wave, a memory, or a storage device; said data signal including

1 a first certificate indicating a first entity as its source and including (a)
2 security information regarding at least a second entity, and (b) information authenticating
3 a second certificate from said second entity.
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5 10. An article as in claim 9, including a second certificate indicating said
6 second entity as its source; whereby a recipient of said first certificate and said second
7 certificate can authenticate from information therein a first set of security information to
8 associate with said first entity and a second set of security information to associate with
9 said second entity.
10

11 11. An article as in claim 9, wherein at least one of the following
12 includes a root certificate: said first certificate, said second certificate.
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14 12. An article as in claim 9, wherein
15 said first certificate includes both an expiration date and information
16 authenticating a third certificate; and

17 said third certificate includes an expiration date other than said expiration
18 date for said first certificate.
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20 13. An article as in claim 9, wherein said first certificate includes
21 information authenticating a certificate from said first entity other than said first
22 certificate.

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14. An article as in claim 9, wherein said first certificate includes information authenticating a future intended version of said first certificate.

15. An article as in claim 9, wherein said second certificate includes information authenticating a third certificate.

16. An article as in claim 9, wherein said second certificate including security information regarding at least a third entity, said second certificate including information authenticating a third certificate from said third entity;

and including steps of sending said third certificate from said third entity

17. An article as in claim 9, wherein said security information includes a set of authorizations for said second entity.

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